

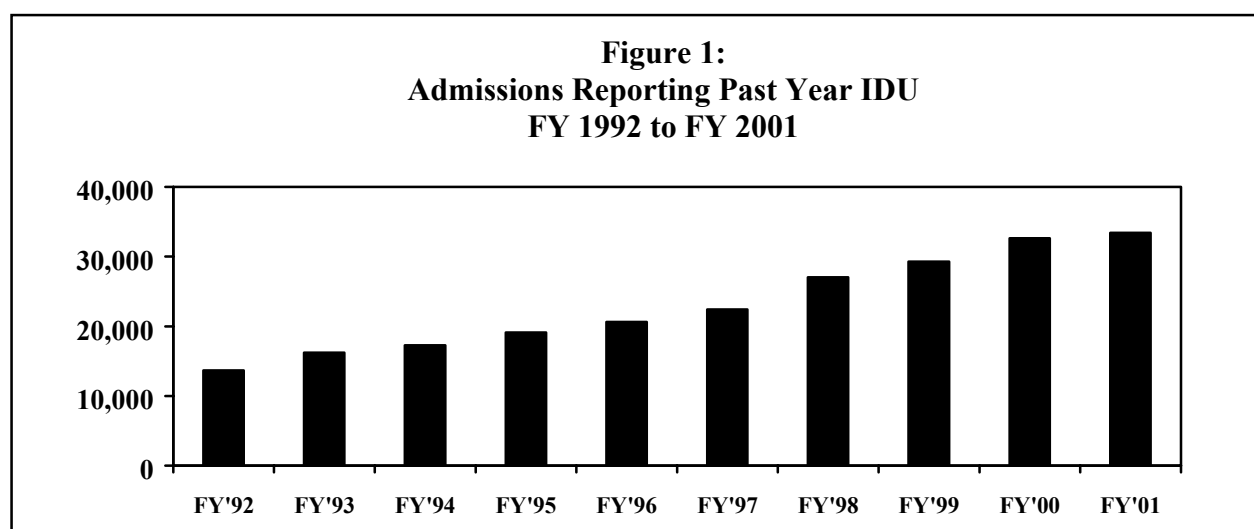
INJECTION DRUG USE IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet provides information on injection drug use (IDU) admissions to substance abuse treatment services. Data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Management Information System (SAMIS) in FY 2001.^{1,2}

Characteristics of Treatment Admissions:

- Admissions reporting injection drug use (IDU) have been on the rise since FY 1992. In FY 2001, 27% (33,391) of admissions reported past year injection drug use, as compared to 15.9% (13,640) in FY 1992. (Figure 1)
- 72% (24,003) of IDU admissions were male and 28% (9,388) were female. However, a higher proportion of female admissions reported IDU as compared to male admissions. Of those admitted, 30% of all females (9,388/31,796) and 26% of all males (24,003/90,831) reported past year IDU.
- 60.4% of IDU admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 68.8% (22,956) of IDU admissions were white non-Latino, 20.8% (6,938) were Latino, 6.5% (2,178) were black non-Latino and 4% (1,319) were other racial categories.
- 23.8% (7,958) of IDU admissions reported being homeless.



Types of Services:

IDU's were admitted to the following program types in FY 2001:

- 63.5% (21,194) to acute treatment services (ATS). These 21,194 admissions constitute 40% of all ATS admissions.
- 11.0% (3,661) to narcotic treatment.
- 7.6% (2,524) to outpatient services.
- 7.4% (2,474) to residential services. These 2,474 admissions constitute 39% of all residential admissions (i.e., Therapeutic Communities, Social Models, and Recovery Homes).
- 3.8% (1,279) to therapeutic support services.
- 6.8% (2,259) to some other treatment service.

¹ SAMIS data include information reported by all BSAS licensed substance abuse treatment programs for FY 1992 to FY 2001. These data include admissions to BSAS licensed programs that may be reimbursed by Medicaid or other public payers. Trends are reported beginning in FY 1992 when data were first collected in their current form.

² This fact sheet may contain small numbers. Trends based upon small numbers should be interpreted with caution.

Primary Substance of Use:

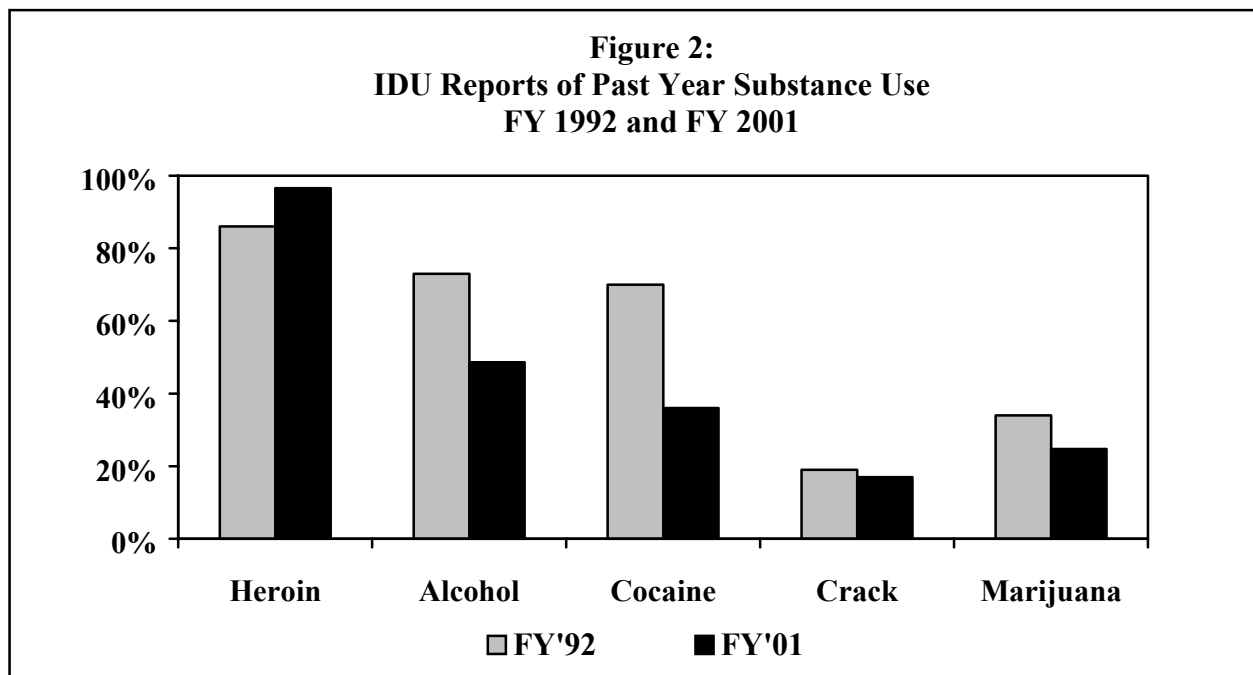
In FY 2001, nearly all (90%) of injection drug users reported intravenously using heroin in the past year.

- Heroin as a primary substance among IDU's increased from 66% in FY 1992 to 89% in FY 2001.
- Alcohol as a primary substance among IDU's decreased from 17% in FY 1992 to 7% in FY 2001.
- Cocaine as a primary substance among IDU's decreased from 14% in FY 1992 to 2% in FY 2001.
- Crack as a primary substance among IDU's remained relatively stable between FY 1992 (2%) and FY 2001 (1%).

Substances Used in the Past Year:

In FY 2001, IDU admissions reported a decline in the past year use of crack, cocaine, alcohol and marijuana, while they reported an increase in heroin use in the past year (Figure 2).

- Between FY 1992 and FY 2001, past year heroin use reported by IDU's increased from 86% to 97%.
- Past year alcohol use reported by IDU's decreased from 73% to 49%.
- Past year cocaine use reported by IDU's decreased from 70% to 36%.
- Past year crack use reported by IDU's decreased from 19% to 17%.
- Past year marijuana use reported by IDU's decreased from 34% to 25%.



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